The Bible & Daily Living

Believe and receive

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
BELIEVE AND RECEIVE LIFE
Lesson for December 30, 1984
Bible Study Passages: John 2:1-11; 3:16-18
INTRODUCTION:

During this "post Christmas" season we can contemplate the meaning of the Nativity for our life. It is unfortunate that several days after Christmas we take down the tree, the outdoor lights, the nativity scene over the mantle, and all other decorations and stash them in the attic until next year. All too often we also stash away the "spirit of Christmas" along with our decorations. This even happens at church. The church that is all aglow at Christmas with activity and warm Christmas cheer sometimes becomes empty and cold in January.

This is a good time to appreciate the meaning of the Bethlehem event. God sent his Son that all who believe in him might have life and have it more abundantly. Most of us are seeking to make sense out of life and faith. We strive to make life more meaningful by accumulating more, only to discover that the more we accumulate the less happier we are. It's nice to have and to achieve, but after awhile we realize that it isn't enough to satisfy our cravings for meaning. We ponder that there must be more to it than this. And there is!

Meaning comes when we strive to keep alive the Christmas spirit throughout the year. The spirit of giving must be kept alive. The spirit of peace on earth and good will must remain in sharp focus. And we must remember the suffering that some people felt during and after Christmas. Christmas is one of the most depressing times of the year for those who have lost loved ones or suffered family tragedy. We need to be sensitive to those whose "new year" may be filled with a carry over of sadness from the past year.

A SPECIAL WEDDING [John 2:1-10]

This week's lesson looks at the meaning of the Christmas event. In our continued study in John's gospel we will focus upon the first miracle that we have recorded. It is helpful to remember that in John's gospel the miracles were signs that were intended to evoke belief. In the miracle at Cana, Jesus revealed that what he was bringing into the world superseded what was before. The old wine was being replaced with the new.

The wedding at Cana was very special. We learn that Jesus was an invited guest of the wedding party. The fact that Jesus chose to perform his first miracle at this wedding says something about his belief in marriage and family. It also says something about his ability to celebrate life. Jesus was no prude.

This particular wedding could have been somewhat of a disaster had it not been for Jesus. When the wine ran out he performed the miracle of turning water to wine. What could have turned into a dull occasion was saved by the presence of Jesus. Of course, there was a message in the miracle. Jesus did not perform miracles to impress or entertain. There was always meaning and order to his actions. The new wine implied redemption through grace. You will remember that in the upper room Jesus shared a cup saying, "This is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

THE MIRACLE OF MIRACLES [John 2:11]

The miracle of miracles is the gift of salvation and forgiveness of sin through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The miracle of belief frees you and me from our bondage to sin to live wholly and joyfully in this world. Jesus performed miracles that he might disclose the authority of the Kingdom and move his disciples to belief. There is no doubt that their faith was deepened every time they witnessed Jesus perform a miracle. But Jesus sought more than mere intellectual belief in him. He asked for commitment to do the work of the Kingdom. Head knowledge is not the same as heart knowledge!

FOR GOD SO LOVED [John 3:16-18]

Very briefly we touch upon the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. John surely included this conversation to impress upon his readers that new life in Jesus meant being born anew from above. Faith is a gift that we receive freely. Salvation comes through belief and commitment to the one who helps us make sense out of life and death. He is our "lifeline of hope."

Ponder these questions:

1. What is it that gives your life meaning?
2. How would you describe your relationship to Christ?
3. What does being "born from above" mean to you?

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Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Kentuck Baptist Church in Ringgold, Virginia (WLYP).

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WORSHIP

Dr. Wood to speak locally

Dr. David Wood

Dr. David Wood will speak at Bible Baptist Church in Appomattox Sunday, Dec. 30, at 6 p.m.

David Wood was born in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1941. At age 15, he attended the Thomas Road Baptist Church for the first time. As Dr. Jerry Falwell preached the Gospel, he felt the Holy Spirit's conviction for the first time. Three months later he received Christ as Saviour and instantly felt God's call into the Gospel ministry.

After finishing one year of Bible college in Canada, he returned to Lynchburg where he worked in the Youth Department of Thomas Road Baptist Church for one year.

During this time he met and married June Arrington. They have four children. Faith has finished two years at Liberty Baptist College and is presently her father's secretary. Debbie has finished one year at Liberty Baptist College and is touring with the "King's Players", a Gospel/Drama group from LBC. David, Jr. and Jon are 17 and 15 respectively. David Jr. has responded to God's call upon his life to the Gospel ministry.

After finishing Bible college in Columbia, South Carolina at the Columbia Bible College, Dr. Wood founded the Harbor Baptist Church. During his 13 1/2-year ministry there, the church was recognized as South Carolina's fastest growing Sunday School for three separate years. The church had an all-time high of 4,247 in attendance with 237 saved in one service!

The soul-winning emphasis in the ministry of Dr. Wood was a direct result of attending an early pastor's school held at the Bill Rice Ranch in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The ministry of Dr. Jack Hyles and Dr. John R. Rice became an influential part of his ministry and life.

In May of 1975, Hyles-Anderson College bestowed a Doctorate of Divinity Degree upon Dr. Wood.

In 1979, Dr. Wood and his family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan to found a second church--Heritage Baptist.

God's blessings and leadership were apparent during those 5 1/2 years with a Sunday School high attendance of 882 and a one-time high attendance of 1,791. Hundreds were saved and scores baptized. Twenty-three young people entered Bible College for training and eleven have already entered full time service.

Dr. Wood, while pastoring Heritage Baptist Church, was in demand to speak in soul-winning conferences, revival meetings and youth camps. He has developed a church, trainer/trainee soul winning program known as "Operation Go" presently used in numbers of churches. He also has a tape ministry which God has used nationally.

In March of 1984, Dr. Wood responded to God's leadership to enter Evangelism. After announcing it to his congregation, he and his family moved from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Murefreesboro, Tenn.

Obituaries

Marvin Harris Kent

Marvin Harris Kent, 66, of White Stone, formerly of Richmond, died Monday afternoon in a Richmond hospital.

Born in Kentmoor in Amherst County, he was a son of the late George Morris and Mabel Caldwell Kent. He was a member of Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church and a retired captain of Virginia State Police. He was also retired assistant director of safety for Wilson Trucking Corporation.

He is survived by his wife, Maragret Stratton Kent, White Stone; two brothers, William C. Kent, Lynchburg, and George M. Kent, Dover, Del.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Hebron Baptist Church by the Rev. Gary Threatt.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Rev. John D. Scruggs Sr.

The Rev. John D. Scruggs Sr. of Route 3, Box 438, Appomattox, departed this life Tuesday at his residence.

Born in Appomattox County, he was a son of Mrs. Mary Kinney Scruggs and the late George W. Scruggs. He was a member of Canaan Baptist Church in Appomattox County. He was the pastor of Rising Sun Baptist Church in Monroe and Union Grove Baptist Church in Buckingham County.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Dorothy L. Scruggs; four sons, John D. Scruggs Jr. and Samuel T. Scruggs, both of Amherst, and Gary L. Scruggs and Ronald D. Scruggs, both of Appomattox; three sisters, Mrs. Susie Burgess of Lynchburg, Mrs. Georgia Jones of Madison Heights and Mrs. Ora McCoy of Appomattox; two grandchildren, John D. Scruggs III and Shana Scruggs, both of Amherst; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 2 p.m. at Canaan Baptist Church at Vera in Appomattox County, with the Rev. Curtis L. Elliott officiating. Interment was in the family cemetery.

Community Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Birth announced

Ray and Irma Lann are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Crystal Renee' Lann, born Dec. 17, 1984 at 6:19 a.m. in Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Crystal weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long at birth.

Paternal grandparents are Mrs. Ruby Lann of Buckingham and the late Nick Lann of Buckingham.

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Holiday Lake camp dates, fees established

By FRANK H. SWEET
Extension Agent

Appomattox County 4-H'ers will attend Holiday Lake 4-H Camp during the week of Aug. 5 to 9 in 1985. We will be sharing the camp with 4-H'ers from the city of Lynchburg. The Camp Board of Directors has established a weekly 4-H camp fee of $85 for the 1985 season. Efforts are already underway to insure a fun filled exciting week for 4-H'ers who attend camp next summer.

Several of the talented performers in Share-the-Fun would be willing to help provide special entertainment for a civic club or community group. Please give us a call at the Appomattox Extension Office if your club or group would like to include several performing young people for a special occasion. 4-H members participated in vocal acts, instrumental acts, dances, drama and a variety of skits and pantomines in this years Share-the-Fun.

4-H Achievement Records will be due in the Extension Office by Feb. 8. All Senior 4-H'ers (those who are 14 or older before January 1, 1985) are eligible to complete records in the Extension Office. We're also willing to work with you individually or in small groups. Give us a call if you're interested.

4-H members with tobacco record books should turn these in as soon as the 1985 crop is sold. All 4-H Tobacco project records are due in the Extension Office by Jan. 31. Awards are available for outstanding records in Dark Tobacco, Burly Tobacco and Fire cured Tobacco. We have some extra record books if a member would like to re-copy a project book before turning it in.

Thanks to the members and leaders of the 4-H Achievers Club and the Lucky Clover 4-H Club for providing special Christmas boxes of canned goods and clothing for deserving families in Appomattox County. Community service projects are an important part of being involved in a community 4-H Club.

Looking for some suggestions for a New Year's Resolution for 4-H members? How about these suggestions: 1) complete and turn in two 4-H projects, 2) enter at least two exhibits in the Five County Fair, 3) take part in at least two major 4-H activities (Share-the-Fun, Presentations, 4-H Camp, etc.) and 4) teach a younger member skills and knowledge that you have learned. These are very realistic goals for any active 4-H'er and ones that any member could achieve.

A good way to keep up with what you have done in 4-H (especially for community club members) is to use a big calendar. Post it in your room or other suitable place and record on it the activities, events, committee meetings, special programs and 4-H workshops that you participate in during the year. At years end you'll have a complete record of your 4-H involvement. Such a record will be most helpful when you work on Achievement Records.

GREETINGS TO ALL!

May the holidays abound with all the warmth and goodness we wish for you and yours...wrapped in love and happiness.

Vicki And Bob Jamerson

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